



Brownfields 2006 Grant Fact Sheet

*Cleveland
Metroparks,
Cuyahoga County,
OH*

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The Cleveland Metroparks was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. Located in northeastern Ohio, the Cleveland Metroparks is working to preserve, conserve, and restore natural areas in and around Cuyahoga County. It owns and manages more than 20,000 acres of parkland in Cuyahoga County and in Hinckley Township, Medina County (combined population 1,358,503). Cuyahoga County, located along the shores of Lake Erie, serves as the business



Assessment Grant



\$200,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected the Cleveland Metroparks for a brownfields assessment grant. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to perform ten to 20 Phase I and three to five Phase II environmental site assessments in and around Cuyahoga County. Grant funds also will be used to conduct human health and ecological risk assessments, develop cleanup plans, and implement community outreach activities.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

EPA Region 5 Brownfields Team
312-886-7576

<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/>

Grant Recipient: Cleveland Metroparks, OH
216-635-3245

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

and economic center for northeastern Ohio. Although the population of the county has been declining over the past 15 years, Cuyahoga is a densely populated area that will soon become the first fully built-out county in the State of Ohio. According to the state, 34 percent of Cuyahoga residents are minorities, as compared to 15 percent for the state. Thirteen percent of the county's population lives below the poverty level. A large number of these residents live in areas that were formerly booming industrial centers, but are now idled brownfields. Many of these sites, located along Lake Erie and the Cuyahoga River, have contributed to the environmental degradation of the area for over a century. This degradation has resulted in poor surface

water and groundwater quality, decreased air quality, increased erosion, destruction of natural habitats, and accelerated run-off and flooding. Revitalization of brownfields in Cleveland Metroparks will improve and stabilize water and air quality, increase property values, and provide recreational opportunities for area residents.